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THE  
STORY OF GLOUCESTER  
MASSACHUSETTS

PERMANENTLY SETTLED 1623



AN ADDRESS PREPARED BY

FREDERICK W. TIBBETS

AND GIVEN BEFORE

THE CONVENTION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS

STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

AT CITY HALL, GLOUCESTER

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 21, 1916



REPRODUCED BY FRED. M. THIBOUTS 1917

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Fishermen's Field, now Stage Fort Park

I appreciate very much the invitation which has been extended to me by your directors that I should prepare and deliver a paper at your annual convention at Gloucester, and of whose history covering three centuries of existence you have so kindly asked me to speak to you. It is in response to that invitation that I am with you today, to tell you the story of the brave and courageous men who early in the seventeenth century builded so well the place they settled, and of those other men and women who have never in all the years since then lost faith nor doubted that here upon the rugged headlands of old Cape Ann at length there would be found the City Prosperous and the City Beautiful. I cannot in the brief time at my disposal attempt to cover in a few words the many things of absorbing interest about Gloucester and her history. I am, therefore, asking that you will listen as I tell to you some things that have seemed to me the most important about this city.

**Gloucester will celebrate its 300th Anniversary  
in 1923.**

In 1920, three years hence, the three hundredth anniversary of the settlement at Plymouth will be celebrated with the consideration that its importance in the

history of this country demands. But the settlement at Plymouth was that of a band of Pilgrims seeking in a new world the opportunity to worship God but with a foundation that is, to worship God according to their own ideas. The Pilgrim Fathers came to this country not primarily to found a state, nor were they adventurous men seeking in a new country new opportunities for business, commerce and wealth. If hundreds of thousands of the people of this country in 1920 journey down to Plymouth and to Provincetown, for Provincetown has as much right to share the glory of this tercentenary celebration of a landmark in the country's history, much more should they not forget to come to Gloucester and to Cape Ann, where three years later will be celebrated the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

And it is to Cape Ann, another important landmark in our history, that you men of Massachusetts, representing the same courage and the same adventures during that did the men who came here in 1623, have come for this year's annual convention. I challenge anyone to deny that the men who compose the Fire Departments of the cities and towns of Massachusetts, whether they are the permanent men in those departments or only those designated as call men, display the same strong qualities of manhood as do those who go down to the sea in ships that as fishermen they may wrest from old ocean their livelihood. To do and dare in the face of grave danger and under every circumstance stamps the hero and we find them as firemen and as fishermen, as men in all walks of life.

### Visits of Early French and English Navigators.

I cannot, did I have the time, speak to you of the presumed visits of the adventurous Norsemen to this rugged coast about ten centuries ago, but tradition is not fact and tradition unsupported is mere romance. I

would, were it possible, tell you something of the early French and English navigators in the beginnings of the seventeenth century, of Bartholomew Gosnold in 1602, of Martin Pring in 1603 and of many others of those hardy men who must have seen even if they did not land upon our shores. I would like to say something of the French Champlain, who in 1605 and 1606 visited these shores and made a landing and a map and called this harbor of ours, "Le Beau Port," beautiful today as then. I would like to tell you something of the tribes of Indians who lived here in those old days and worshipped the Great Spirit at Tablet Rock. And I would like to speak of John Smith, who in 1614 was undoubtedly the first Englishman to plant his foot upon our soil and who named the fair headland Tragabigzanda soon changed to Cape Ann by Prince Charles in honor of his mother, Anne of Denmark. All these things I would like to tell you, did time permit.

### **Foundation of the Massachusetts Bay Colony at Stage Fort Park.**

On Stage Fort Park in 1907, citizens of Gloucester dedicated a tablet of bronze set in the primeval boulder and the inscription reads

ON THIS SITE IN  
1623

A Company of Fishermen and Farmers from Dorchester,  
England, under the direction of Rev. John White  
founded

#### **THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY.**

From that time, the Fisheries, the oldest industry in  
the Commonwealth have been uninterruptedly  
pursued from this Port.

Here in 1625 Governor Roger Conant by wise diplomacy  
averted bloodshed between contending factions,  
one led by Miles Standish of Plymouth,  
the other by Capt. Hewes

A Notable Exemplification of Arbitration in the  
Beginnings of the New World

I want to emphasize this one important and far-reaching fact that you have come to the place where three hundred years ago in 1623 the Massachusetts Bay Colony was founded and that here, right here in Gloucester, and at Fishermen's Field, you will find one of the most historic spots in this great State of Massachusetts. It was to Cape Ann that the men came who founded the Massachusetts Bay Colony and established beyond per adventure its first church, its first school house, its first gathering of men in what afterward was to become the Town Meeting. And it was on Fishermen's Field, now Stage Fort Park, at the entrance of the city westward that these things took place, and it was from that spot that the settlements went forth which were to lead up to Independence, to the Constitution and the United States of America. And I want you to bear in mind that there is this distinction between the colonies at Plymouth and at Cape Ann. Plymouth founded because of sentiment, Cape Ann because of the desire to establish under law a business enterprise.

### Tablet Commemorates the Establishment of the Fisheries.

But what more does the great bronze tablet tell to you and me? It tells of the establishment on that site of the fishing and the fisheries, the oldest of all the industries of the Commonwealth and it tells us, too, that continuously without interruption that industry has been carried on here. I ask you to tell me if any similar fact is true of any other place in all New England. In 1623 this place became a landmark as the produce fishing port of the New World, cradle of New England's commerce and nursery of the American Navy. That it holds today, and when we speak of Gloucester we first think of her as the great fishing port of the United States; a position she has held unintermittedly nearly two three centuries. Through storm and sunshine, in



Wharf with Vessels

winter and summer months, this industry has been pursued, now with good luck, now with poor, in many a year bringing sorrow and suffering to many homes by reason of disaster on the deep, but always pushing onward and upward and wringing from out the briny sea wealth and progress.

And yet again, this tablet tells a yet stronger fact that here on old Cape Ann the great principle of Arbitration was first set forth and

what might have ended in bloodshed was wisely averted by the diplomacy and tact of Roger Conant, first of the long line of Governors who have honored this grand old Commonwealth. By wise diplomacy did I say, yes and by that diplomacy teaching the lesson of the Golden Rule to settle disputes between man and man and between nations and nations.

### **Settlement at Cape Ann Was Never Abandoned.**

I ask you to keep in mind these things as I hasten on to show and prove to you that you have come in 1916 to one of the shrines of the New World to which in future years people will come more and more as they learn the history that has been made on this, the ruggedest headland of the Bay State.

The feeble settlement at Cape Ann never faltered. Some of the earliest colonists wearied and discouraged went over the shore to Salem, some returned to England



First house erected on Fishermen's Field.

had their places were taken by others and still others until in 1642 the town of Gloucester was incorporated (named after Gloucester, England whence many of the settlers of that year came) and the first step in the struggle was over.

Between 1625 and 1642 the humble settlement on Fishermen's Field, where the first house had been erected, the fishing stages—set up, the salt works—started and from whose beaches the primitive fishing boats had sailed forth to reap the harvests of the deep, had faded away. The settlers who remained and others who followed fought in other sections—and in 1631 we find a Robinson at Abniskquam, ancestor of that other Robinson who in 1733 used what is now the ferry landing at East



Ferry landing, looking from "Wharfe," West Gloucester.

Gloucester, gave a new name to the mercantile vocabulary and a new rig to the commerce of the world, for in that year as a vessel which he had built was going off the stocks, a bystander crying out "See how she scoons," a "scooner let her be," replied Robinson, and added emphasis was given to the term by reason of the way in which she was rigged.

### **Some Important Events of the First Century of the Town.**

The story of the first century of our history is alive with interesting events. Feeble though the beginnings



Meeting House Green

were, the spirit of determination never faltered and the growth in population and in business enterprise was constant though at times exceedingly slow. Richard Blynman, the first minister after the incorporation, made Cape Ann an Island by the cut in 'Squam River in 1643 near where the bridge now spanning that river on Western avenue is named for him. Within five years of its incorporation we find a ship to have been built, a military company organized, a meeting house erected, the second since the settlement in 1623, and both located as were the several that were to follow near what is now known as Meeting House Green up in town, a burial place laid out, the present ancient burying ground

on Centennial Avenue. Even at this early period there were shipwrights and carpenters and the beginnings of a maritime commerce: the carrying of cargoes of wood to Salem and Boston and other nearby ports. Within ten years the first saw mill had been erected and within twenty the first corn mill at what is now the grist mill at Riverdale, where ever since corn has been ground and the business of the miller carried on. We read of the first garrisons as defences against the Indians under King Philip (1676), of the story of the days of witchcraft (1692) which fortunately did not obtain a firm foothold here, of the establishment of the ferry to the Western Second Parish (1694), of the first schoolmaster (1698), of the first witch house at what is now known as The Fort (1705) of the trade in cargoes of sand (1725). As early as 1650 some of our settlers had removed to New London, Conn., and others removed to New Falmouth, Maine in 1727, and still others in 1739 went still further into the Maine wilderness, and founded there the town of New Gloucester.

### **Town an Early Sufferer from Shipwrecks and Marine Losses.**

As early as 1635 a terrible shipwreck occurred off our shore by which twenty and more lives were lost and the island where two of three saved then became known as *Horchers Island* and is so known at the present time, and on this island the twin lighthouses were built and in 1771 first lighted to serve and warn the mariners, of whom they have done in all the years since. Many and serious have been the shipwrecks on our coast since then and the toll of lives lost has indeed been heavy.

In 1740 the first of the long line of disasters to our fishing fleet took place as serious a loss of life then as in any body, nearly a year since that early period. We



OLD FORT

read of the coming of the first physician (1712), of the first workhouse (1716), of the pirates who threatened our vessels and our shores (1724), of the final purchase of the Indian rights for seven or eight pounds (1700), of the establishment of what was then known as the district school system (1735) and exactly one hundred years after its incorporation of the erection of the first fort (1742) on the very spot where thirty-seven years before the first watch had been established.

### **Progress Shown at the Beginning of the Second Century.**

The first century of the history of the town had closed. Within that time the fishing business had been firmly established, ship building was being carried on, coastwise commerce a source of income. The population had grown, new settlers had come taking the place of those who had left, three parishes beside the parent church had been established, one at West Parish 1716 (the second), one at Annisquam 1728 (the third), and one "up in town" 1743 (the fourth), for with the growth in population and the development of the fishing the centre of the town had changed and was now nearer the harbor and the harbor water front, and so the members of the first parish had removed from Meeting House Green and were now worshipping in a new and larger meeting house, which had been erected

on what was then Cornhill (now Middle street) and on the very site where it is now worshipping though in a new church. And with church and school and town meeting there naturally came the old time tavern, the first in town being that of James Stevens who dispensed lodging and food at what is known as the Pillory inn-site near the Green, erected about 1710 and known not many years after as the Stevens tavern and here our early records tell us that "licker" was paid for out of the money of the taxpayers whenever the selectmen met. How changed the times.



Meeting House 1738

### The Second Century in the History of the Town.

The second century opens with the French war, 1745, in which Gloucester nobly did her whole duty. I wish I had the time to tell you something of what that part was and of the dramatic story of Peg Wesson, the

witch. That I have not the time to do. In 1754 the Sandy Bay Parish was incorporated, the fifth in town, Sandy Bay whose first settler was Richard Turr. From its incorporation as a parish this portion of the town grew and prospered until in 1810 it became by the act of the Legislature the town of



Church of the Holy Trinity 1860

Rockport. In 1754 the excise act and in 1756 the stamp act were rousing our people in preparation for the big events which were soon to follow, events that led up to Lexington and Concord and Bunker Hill, to the Declaration of Independence, the war of the Revolution, to Yorktown and at length to the reality of the United States of America. In all these events Gloucester and its citizens never faltered, active participants in the preliminary struggles, sending more than its quota to Bunker Hill and then into the ranks of the American Army, doing still as great service as privateersmen on the sea. Brave and courageous in their calling as fishermen, equally brave and courageous fighting for Liberty and Independence.

The War of the Revolution had closed. Its effect had been heavily felt in this town and poverty and suffering was touching severely the people. It was therefore, with great rejoicing that they learned in 1783 that Peace had been declared. The years that followed soon restored confidence and confidence begat prosperity and progress.

It would be interesting to tell you of the appearance of the old town at the close of this war, to describe the crooked streets, to speak of the old houses and of the customs of those other days and then to refer even briefly to the then prominent families, many of them not now represented in the city. All these things would prove fascinating reading. I would like to tell you of the old time training days, the greatest holiday of the year, when the different military companies from the different parts of the town gathered and under the command of their colonel spent the day in military drill, of the march of the Honey Pinks headed by fife and drum into town from across the cut, whose approach was the signal that the great events of the day were really coming, the Honey Pinks whose descendants within the week have

over again proved the mettle of their make up by an invasion into a near by lander.

### Foundations of Universalism Laid in Gloucester.

I now come to another of the great events which will ever make Gloucester famous. I can only refer to it in the briefest way. In 1770 John Murray, the first preacher of the great doctrine of Universalism landed in America. The year previous the most representative and influential citizens of the town of Gloucester had learned something of what the doctrine was that Murray preached and by the time he reached Boston had read of him. It was not long before he was invited to Gloucester and here he came in 1771 and for twenty long years ministered to his people. In 1780 the first Universalist church building in the world was erected on the land where the Bradford block on Main street now stands and then in 1806 the splendid church building now standing on the corner of Church and Middle streets was built and dedicated.



*Universalist Church, founding site*

The coming of Murray to Gloucester and the events that led up to were in many respects as important as any that had happened in the history of this country. It opens led up to Lexington and Concord and Bunker Hill and Independence, and the bombing on this

continent of a government whose corner stone is Liberty and the equality of all men under the law, so did the fight which Murray and his friends, the Universalists, made in Gloucester lead up to the Liberty of the people to worship God in their own way and to the equality of all beliefs and creeds under the law. Murray and his friends here made the fight not alone for Universalists, but for the Unitarian and the Baptist and the Methodist and the Episcopalian and the Catholic and the Jew and for all the different bodies of religious people no matter what their name or creed and even for those who do not believe in church or creed and all these peoples owe a debt to that early band of Universalists, feeble and few in number, which can never be paid. But yet again, this same society of Universalists were pioneers in the anti-slavery cause for it was their second minister, the Rev. Thomas Jones, who wrote in 1813 these words after attending the funeral of one of his parishioners, Gloster Dalton, one of the signers of its charter of compact, 1785, —

“He was a native of Africa and brought away as a slave (so called). For there are no Slaves. All Men are born Free.” And these words antedated the Emancipation Proclamation fifty years.

### **Charter of Tyrian Lodge of Masons Bears Historic Signatures.**

Nor must I forget to tell you at this time of the institution in March, 1770, of Tyrian Lodge of Masons, one of the oldest Masonic lodges in the State, whose charter, precious document that it is, bears the signatures of General Joseph Warren, who fell five years later at Bunker Hill and of Paul Revere, whose early morning ride on the nineteenth of April, 1775, will go ringing down the ages as long as pluck and daring make the heart beat quicker at the recital of their deeds, and, still more precious, whose jewels are the handiwork of that same Revere, pioneer Patriot of Massachusetts. The

history of this Lodge of Masons for now a century and a half is singularly interwoven with the best in the life of this town. Strange indeed that in 1770 this Lodge was instituted mostly by the men who the year before had learned of the faith of Universalism, whose corner stone rests upon the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, and who four years later were to become the first Universalist Society in the World. Strange, did I say?

### Developments in Transportation and the Arts of Peace.

Under the beneficent effects of the adoption of the Constitution Gloucester grew in wealth and population and the history for the next century and more is the history of achievement and development. As we hurriedly review the events of greater importance we read of the establishment of the Custom House, 1780, and Postoffice, 1792, of the earlier history of the stage such as the means of communication between distant points to be followed in 1847 by the opening of a branch of the Eastern Railroad giving train service to Boston until at the present time a train an hour or oftener each way makes this branch one of the best paying parts of the Boston and Maine system, of the street railway development in all directions locally and as component parts of the Bay State Railroad, of the coming of the automobile until locally almost one happens to own one he is now considered to be in good form, and because of which our unrivalled sea shore property will be all made available for summer business of the telegraph, the telephone and the numberless other time saving devices that have helped the development of Gloucester business, and finally on our own shores the great invention of the younger Hiramsham, adopted son of our city.

We must not forget that under the influence of the Constitution Gloucester received a visit from the fir-



View of Gloucester 1817 (Beach)

famed sea serpent in 1817, the giant monster of the deep in length a hundred feet or more, in size around the belly as large as a good sized barrel and with a mouth two feet wide from whose depths shot forth a forked tongue, and whose visit is vouched for by the most reputable of the citizens of those days whose word was as good as their bond. Ten years later the first newspaper was published in the town, The Gloucester Telegraph, and then came the Gloucester Lyceum, whose efforts to disseminate knowledge by the lecture course led finally to the public library so richly endowed in the latter part of the past century by that prince of native born benefactors, Samuel E. Sawyer.

### **Town Showed Patriotism by Many Enlistments in all National Wars.**

The wars of 1812 and 1845 found Gloucester ready to do and suffer to the limit of her resources, while the terrible battle for supremacy in 1861-1865 between the North and the South resulted in a victory for a Government of and for and by the people with Freedom written strong all over the Constitution, and in this terrible conflict from the calling of the Minute Men in April, 1861, until the surrender at Appomattox Court House in April, 1865, Gloucester did more than she was called to do on land and sea, as Gloucester has always

dance. And what has been that record since 1675 when in the first Indian War she contributed 16 men, one-quarter of her male population, to military service. In the French War (1745) 720 men saw service, in the War of the Revolution 1665, in Shay's Rebellion, a small affair 44, in the War of 1812 552 men in the Army and the Navy, in the War of the Rebellion, 1500 men into the Army and 135 into the Navy, in the war of 1898, 500 men, and in the very latest trouble on the Mexican border, our own Co. G, Eighth Massachusetts, was among the very first companies to report and to be recruited to the full war-strength footing. Proud of these records, that time can never obliterate, we of this generation pay willing tribute of appreciation to the Heroes of all the Wars.

### Citizens Never Niggardly in Support of Education.\*

Events moved rapidly these last hundred years. The reorganization of the School Department in 1849, one of the noblest acts ever performed by our people affords the opportunity to briefly review some steps in the upward progress of education on Cape Ann.

As early as 1696 steps were taken to secure a schoolmaster, but it was not until two years later that one was employed, when Thomas Riggs, Senior, was engaged at the nominal salary



Thomas Brown School

of one shilling sixpence per day when actually employed. That was the first important step. Since then the progress has been steady, sure, and Gloucester citizens have never stinted their support of their schools. At the present time schools, school buildings, school system, school teachers, school children and school management

will compare most favorably with any town or city in the State. The appropriation for the support of the schools the present year is \$460,500, or one-third of the total appropriation for the current expenses. The number of scholars enrolled in 1915 was 4819, and the number of teachers 113.

### **Some Notable Sons Who Achieved Success Elsewhere.**

Gloucester has had men of literary merit in the past among these Samuel Gilman, Unitarian preacher, author of "Fair Harvard"; Epes Sargent, writer and editor who wrote that stirring ballad, "A Life on the Ocean Wave"; Edwin P. Whipple, noted essayist, William Winter, delightful writer and greatest of living dramatic critics. Among the men and women of the present generation there are many who will write their names well to the top upon the scroll of fame for achievement in literature or science. Her record in the Army is most creditable, her first West Point graduate, Colonel John H. Calef, fired the first gun at Gettysburg, the deciding battle in the War of the Rebellion, while in recent years she has kept at the Military Academy six men in succession (a record without a parallel) who are giving and will give good account of themselves in the service of their country, while in the Navy she has sent many of her sons who as officers or men have never failed in the final test of all, to do their whole duty.



Church Lady of Good Voyage

From the one frail religious parish of the earliest times we find the same steady growth that has characterized all her other activities until today we have 24 church organizations, many of them owning fine church edifices, all of them doing their part in the moral uplift of the community while supplementing their work a well housed Young Men's Christian Association occupies a no small part in the Christian life of Gloucester.

### Unprecedented Growth of the Fishing Industry.

The growth of the fishing and the fisheries under tremendous obstacles has been most constant during all the years since 1623, its record one of triumph from its



Before Type "Pistol Vessel" and

humble beginnings on Fishermen's Field. As early as 1650 we find fishing stages in the harbor and fishermen employed, a century later seventy vessels were thus employed, in 1775 the number had increased to 80 with a burden of 1000 tons. With all the changes that have taken place, with all the losses at sea or along the rocks, losses that must have staggered any but the stoutest hearted, with the transfer of many vessels to other ports, with one of its most important branches reeking Boston its headquarters (the Fresh fish business)

with the radical change in the National policy toward the fisheries, with the serious international complications that have hampered at times the business, with the changes in the rig and the model and finally in the method of carrying on the business by which consolidation of effort, brains and capital have brought about greater efficiency, Gloucester still retains her supremacy as the Master Fishing Port of the United States. The records of the Custom House show that on June 30, 1916, there were 128 vessels enrolled here, carrying 2400 men, these vessels being 20 tons and over and 88 vessels, carrying 500 men, these vessels being under 20 tons, a grand total of 216 vessels, gross tonnage 15,135, carrying nearly 3,000 men. And the future never looked brighter with large increases in the number of vessels, of larger tonnage and employing many more men.

To give the record of the fish receipts, the number of the men employed and the value of the products landed from Gloucester fishing vessels, to attempt to tell you of some of the big stocks and the big shares is too big a task for me to undertake. It is only in recent years that any attempt has been made to officially do these things. The Cape Ann Advertiser and its successor the Gloucester Daily Times, furnish the best statistics and covering more than 60 years of the life of this city, their columns are veritable gold mines of information in regard to these matters. Very briefly, I might say that in 1847, sixty-nine years ago, Gloucester had 287 vessels, tonnage gross 12,354, employing men and boys 1787, and the value of the fishing product for that year was \$589,354. In 1915 Gloucester vessels landed at least 120,000,000 pounds of fish of all kinds, fresh and salted, and the value of its products was at least \$3,276,000. The present year has been much more prosperous. Some of the largest stocks have so far been made and the individual shares have been record breakers.

## Mackerel Fishery Marked with Wide Fluctuations.

The mackerel fisheries, one of the most important branches, has shown varying success during the past 108 years, that is since 1808 when the catch was 238 barrels. Many times within the past fifty years there have been phenomenal catches and during some seasons it would seem as if the mackerels had disappeared altogether, but again and again has the tide turned. We are now having a run of the phenomenal luck. The receipts of the Gloucester mackerel vessels in 1915 were close up to 50,000 barrels and the value of that catch close to \$800,000 with some of the stocks and the shares exceedingly high. But 1916 cannot be compared with the 1915 and so far whose catch has already passed the total of last year and the value of that catch by reason of the high prices must be above the million mark. The high stocks of all previous years had had to be far exceeded and the shares will equal the logboat. Indeed it is out of the ordinary that is happening the present year. If it were possible to state accurately the money that the vessels are making and the shares that the crews are receiving, the statement would be surprising to you.



Mackerel Fisherman.

## Losses of Life the Dark Picture in the Fisheries.

And there is the dark side of the picture of the fisheries, the story of the losses in lives and in property, the homes which have been made desolate as father, son, brother or other relative has gone down into the sea to meet his death, the cry of the widowed and the fatherless, the poverty that the trail has left. It is not all sunshine on the water. The storm comes, the fog deepens, a steamer suddenly bears down from out the darkness and lives are lost, vessels go to the bottom or are driven helpless ashore to break to pieces. It is a heavy price that is paid that you and I shall be served with deep sea food, a heavier price than is the toll of any other industry. It has been impossible to give you the statistics for any but the more recent years and yet these will I am very sure be a revelation to you. Since 1830, 807 Gloucester vessels have been lost with a monetary value of \$4,348,816, and an additional value on the outfits of at least \$300,000. But what is the dollar when human life is taken into consideration. During these years, fourteen less than a century, 4,534 men, fishermen sailing out of Gloucester, have been lost at sea, an average of 53 men a year and if a man's life is worth \$5,000, then the monetary value of these lives thus lost is \$22,820,000, or very near the entire valuation of the assessed property of Gloucester the present year.

"Maker of Men, when men are worth  
The highest price the times can board;  
She tosses heroes on the deep,  
As hands toss dice across a board."

It is well worth knowing that in recent years the loss of life is being steadily reduced each year, due beyond a question to the fact that the model of the Gloucester fishing vessel has been constantly improved until at the present time the type now building represents the utmost safety that careful study by practical fishermen can produce, a type of vessel that is being copied by the

best designers of other craft. In seaworthiness, in carrying capacity and in sailing power Gloucester fishing vessels are at the present time without a peer.

### Sea Fisheries a Mine of Inexhaustible Wealth.

Some reference has been made to the mackerel and other fisheries. Since 1808 the mackerel receipts aggregate 5,384,320 barrels with a value of nearly \$80,000,000. In some years the receipts have been well above 150,000 barrels. The value of the codfish industry since 1623, the first year that it was carried on in Gloucester has at a conservative estimate, amounted to \$500,000,000. The sea fisheries are inexhaustible mines of great wealth. I am under deep obligations to Mr. John J. Paw of the Gorton-Paw Fisheries for



FISH BOATS

very valuable statistics of certain branches of the fisheries covering the past 35 years in Gloucester.)

But the half has not been told yet of the business of the fisheries, for there is the business of the curing and all that enters into the preparation of the different kinds of fish for food consumption, supposedly interesting, a business employing hundreds and hundreds of men and women whose wages each week total many

thousands of dollars, a business that has grown within twenty-five years to astonishing proportions and whose directors represent the highest type of business sagacity, enterprise and far-sightedness. To speak of the Gorton-Pew Fisheries, the Cunningham & Thompson Co., the William H. Jordan Co., the Frank E. Davis Co., the David H. Lane Co., is but to mention some of the largest fishing concerns of Gloucester known everywhere through the country.

### **Other Industries Which Show the City's Growth.**

But fishing and the fisheries is not the only business carried on in this city. Second in importance comes the granite industry which has grown from very feeble beginnings a little over a century ago until it now employs many hundreds of men at very remunerative wages whose thrift is shown by the many homes, neat and attractive in appearance, that are to be found on the north side of the Cape.

Only a brief reference can be made to the interesting history of the growth and development of this important industry from very humble beginnings until it at the present time ranks second in the industries of Gloucester and Cape Ann. As early as the beginning of the eighteenth century Joshua Norwood at Sandy Bay was employed to cut flat blocks of stone for moorings for the fishing boats at that settlement, these blocks being six feet square and from ten to fifteen inches thick and through a hole cut in the centre about fifteen inches in diameter an oak butt, twenty feet in length was inserted. The stone was then dropped a proper distance from the shore and thus a safe mooring was afforded. Norwood also cut mill stones which he sold and thus became the pioneer stone cutter of Cape Ann.

The first stone known to have been shipped from Cape Ann was quarried about 1800 near Lobster Cove and moved on skids was loaded on a small fishing boat

and taken to Newburyport where it was used as a mill stone.

The real history of the industry however dates from 1823 when Nehemiah Knowlton at Pigeon Cove cut some five hundred tons of stone which he advertised for sale and Major Bates of Quincy, Mass., came to Sandy Bay and started in to quarry stone. From that year the business developed under the direction of the pioneer stone men of Rockport William Torrey who came from Quincy in 1824, Beniah Colburn, Eary Eames, Benjamin Hale, John Stinson and others, and the quarries on the north side of the Cape furnished stone for the chain bridge over the Merrimac and for the government fortifications in Boston Harbor and at the Charlestown and Portsmouth Navy Yards. Other shipments were also made to various places by sea and even to the Pacific Coast, the West Indies and South America.

The first paving blocks were cut by John Stinson and the first blocks now known as the New York paving blocks were cut by Beniah Colburn, who at one time operated a quarry at Bay View which afterward became the property of the Cape Ann Granite Co. and is now a part of the big plant of the Rockport Granite Co.

It would be impossible to trace at length the gradual but steady growth of this industry from its very humble beginnings until at the present time Cape Ann Granite is recognized as one of the best building materials in this country and Rockport paving is regarded as making for the very best of modern highway building. The Rockport Granite Company which practically controls the granite business of Cape Ann is the logical successor of the earlier pioneers in the business and since its incorporation in 1864 it has steadily grown until at the present time it is employing hundreds of men and in the most up to date method is tapping out granite for all kinds of building purposes. The immense granite quarries at Pigeon Cove and at Bay View are boxes of

industry. Cape Ann Granite is extensively used throughout the country and some of the best structures have been built from it.

The Dog Bar Breakwater at the entrance to Gloucester Harbor is built of Cape Ann Granite and the immense Sandy Bay Breakwater off Pigeon Cove now in process of construction is also built of granite from the near by shore and this breakwater when finished as it must will be in very truth a Harbor of Refuge not alone for the big fleets of our own warships but for the commerce of the North Atlantic.

And there are many other and very diverse manufacturing plants. Known wherever language is spoken, whose present impregnable position has only been gained because those who started the business knew no such word as fail, a policy which has been adhered to ever since until it is the corner stone of the policy that directs its affairs today, the Russia Cement Company, is doing big business in a constantly enlarging plant near the railroad track in West Gloucester. Closely following, it is in place for me to mention, the Success Company, makers of useful things in steel and sheet metal, the big box and barrel factories, the foundry and



Russia Cement Co.

munition plants, the Net and Twine Factory, the Davis Bit plant, the motor, yacht and seine boat manufacturing companies, the Royal Manufacturing Concern, whose North Shore Dress Goods have made a reputation for style and quality throughout the land, the Ipswich Stocking Mills which are planning to build here on a large scale so well pleased are they with their location, the several oil clothing companies, for Cape Ann Oil Clothes have a reputation of their own, the plants where lines, fishing tackle and fog horns are manufactured, the big sail making and hammock concerns, the copper paint and fish and cod liver oil plants, the marine railways, the machinist industries, the traffic sign manufactory, whose silent policeman product is an acknowledged regulator of road traffic, the Hubbard Pilot Bread Bakery, the many dress manufacturing plants, the great cold storage plants, all these and many more attest to the diversity of our industries, all employing Gloucester labor at good wages and contributing each its part that the city may become as I have said the City Prosperous.

### **Summer Visitors One of the City's Greatest Assets.**

And purposely I have left until the last as one of the biggest assets of this city, the summer industry,



*Gloucester Harbor.*

whose development has been so quiet, so steady and so sure that Gloucester has no fear as she faces the future. Thirty years or so ago a dozen families constituted the summer population and a few boarding houses cared for the summer boarders. In the year that Gloucester became a city not a single dollar was assessed on non-resident or summer real estate. In forty years how changed the story. In 1916 the non-resident real estate was assessed at very nearly \$7,000,000, while there are at least 900 distinctly summer homes, great summer hotels and numerous boarding houses cater to at least 5000 summer boarders, and I am well within the truth when I say that close on to half the taxes of this city



Hawthorne Inn

are paid by our summer people. The average ratio of growth for ten year periods indicate that within the next quarter of a century at least 2,500 distinctly summer homes will be occupied by summer families and larger and more magnificent summer hotels will care for the more transient guests. The coming of the summer people, establishing their homes here or causing the building up of the hotel and kindred enterprises means work for skilled and unskilled labor, business for the shopkeepers and holiday prosperity for the summer months. Gloucester must become the great vacation city of all New England, not for the crowds that seek

only a day's diversion, but for those who wish to live in a place beautiful by nature and healthy by reason of its situation.

### **Banks Show Large Resources and Conservative Management.**

Of the material resources of Gloucester, no better evidence can be produced than that given by the banks and that will bear comparison with any similarly situated community in New England. Conservative in their management, as liberal with their customers as a wise banking policy dictates, the men directing their affairs are broad minded and far seeing. Believing in Gloucester they never lose their confidence in her material prosperity, nor have they ever doubted that in the long run the sun would shine very bright upon its varied activities. The three banks of discount are the Gloucester National, chartered in 1796 as the Gloucester Bank and constantly doing business for a hundred and twenty years, the Cape Ann National (chartered 1855) and the Gloucester Safe Deposit and Trust Company, their combined resources at the close of business September 11, 1916, being \$7,671,024, their combined deposits \$6,155,772, their capital stock unpaid and undivided profits \$1,071,147. The considerable increase in deposits and in resources the present year reflects the material prosperity of the City. The deposits in the Cape Ann Savings Bank (Incorporated 1846) with 9,545 depositors practically all local, that is of this immediate vicinity, represent a total of \$3,072,218, while the Guarantee Fund, Surplus and Undivided Profit account is \$288,100, so that the total resources of these financial institutions reach very near the \$11,000,000 mark, while the Co-operative Bank, a building and loan association, has added resources of about \$500,000.

No description of Gloucester would be complete that did not refer to the excellence of the service rendered by the Gloucester Gas Light Company and by the Gloucester Electric Company, a service given at fair and equitable rates when population and demand are fairly taken into consideration. The splendid stores in every line of business serve the public well with large and selected stocks of goods and their proprietors cater to their customers with obliging clerks. Nor should the excellence of its ice supply be passed over. The Cape Pond Ice Company prides itself justly upon the purity of its ice, the reasonableness of its prices and the courteousness of its help.



Dog Town

If in all these things I have forgotten to tell you the story of Dogtown it is not because I am insensible to the romantic history that lies within that story. I could not if I wanted to, tell you as I would like all about that deserted village in the very centre of our Cape whose only witnesses of its existence today are the few overgrown cellars and the hills where once the corn was planted. The picture that the story would tell is so mysterious, so weird, so near the land of dreams that only a master painter could picture it in words that would thrill the listener.

## The Change from Town to City Form of Government.

In 1874 the town became the city. It had outgrown the town meeting and the town government. The change proved beneficial. But in 1908 a so-called commission form of government was adopted. This form of municipal government has its faults and yet on the whole progress is being made. Large reductions in the funded debt, the practical adoption of the Pay as You Go policy give evidence that municipal councils are now alive to the importance of bringing about conditions that will result in a much lower tax rate.



CITY HALL

The total valuation for 1916 was \$26,529,152, the tax rate \$22, the net funded debt exclusive of the Water and Park debts, January 1, 1916, \$428,500 and the borrowing capacity \$243,442. The net debt is being reduced at the rate of \$50,000 or more each year and the tax rate should be much lower hereafter. The population of Gloucester in 1704 was 700; in 1775 it was 4,915; in 1875 it was 10,751; in 1915 it was 21,478 with 5,857 legal voters. The death rate is 12 per thousand which make for the city rate of the lowest in the state.

## Munificent Provision for Care of the Aged and Infirm.

In Homes for the Aged and Infirm, in funds for the relief of poverty and suffering, in the care of its poor, Gloucester is nobly doing its duty. For its fishermen it has provided an Institute Building and Reading Room and a Home for those who are stranded in their old age. Gilbert, Sawyer, Huntress, Chisholm, Healy, Hammond, these and many others have given well that suffering should be relieved and life made



Huntress Home

more pleasant. Gilbert and Healy by the size of their bequests to the hospital, by the scope and breadth of their benefactions, have builded better than any obelisk their monuments. And these are but the fore-runners of many other men and women for whom the gratitude of the citizens of Gloucester will be given in future years. Somehow, after all, the very air and atmosphere of Gloucester makes people kind, considerate, large hearted, generous.

Gloucester has many secret and fraternal orders, each one doing its own work for the uplift of its members, doing it quietly but most effectively. These

societies occupy large space in the social life of the city, but they best serve the community because of their work in purely charitable and fraternal lines.

It is in place to speak of the Master Mariners Association whose membership is composed of the men of the Gloucester fishing fleet who have worked up from the lowest round of the ladder until they have become the "skippers" of the best fleet of sailing vessels that belong to any port in the United States. Their rooms centrally located offer generous hospitality at all seasons of the year to their own members as well as to the strangers who may be but transient visitors to the old fishing port.

The Gloucester Board of Trade, a strong business organization, occupies a commanding position as the centre of the varied activities which aim to advance the purely business interests in a broad way.

### **Fortunate in the Possession of Many Parks and Beaches.**

Of her parks and her beaches Gloucester can justly boast. Her principal park, Stage Fort, historic spot, one of the most historic in the state, where the tidbit is that I have told you about, is without any question the finest on the North Shore, supplementing, is the boulevard that is being constructed to Blynnan Bridge and together with the Kent Circle near at hand makes a fitting entrance to the city. This boulevard will in time be finished clear to the Seaside lot and Gloucester will have within ten years the most beautiful approach of any city in this country. Along the eastern shore of the Annisquam River from Western avenue the city owns the entire stretch clear to the railroad bridge and when that is developed as it will be the city can boast of a river park and playgrounds such as no other city in her class possesses. In time, historic Dogwren will undoubtedly come into the pos-

session of the city, and with driving roads constructed another parking space will be added for the enjoyment of the people. Through the generosity of Samuel E. Sawyer, Ravenswood Park at Fresh Water Cove has been given to our citizens together with sufficient funds to develop and care for it. Situated as it is on high land overlooking the city, of large acreage and finely wooded, it is indeed a beautiful place. At West Gloucester, Mt. Anne Park, the highest spot in Gloucester is a public reservation. On Commonwealth avenue the city owns the crest of the hill.



Sand Dunes, Wingaersheek Beach

In beaches in which the city certainly has rights Gloucester has many places where her people can bathe in summer time and these are most valuable assets. No city owns any finer. In public landings also the city is well situated and the present council have wisely decided to develop one at the foot of Washington street, which shall be of invaluable assistance to the yachtsmen and the Navy people who use our harbor as well as our own people who have occasion to need it.

### **Foreign Commerce and Aids to Navigation.**

If I have failed to make that reference to the coastwise and foreign commerce that its importance

seems to demand it is not that I am unmindful that it has at many a period in our history been of large proportion and of considerable activity. It is an interesting and fascinating history and in the years that are past it has brought much wealth to the firms that engaged in it and to the captains that sailed the ships. There are some in this city today, who have confidence to believe that with our superior harbor facilities the time will again come when Gloucester will once more be the centre of ocean going trade, reaching into Central and South America, and by reason of the Panama Canal into the far East.



*Gloucester Harbor, 1914.*

On Fort Point Island beside the lighthouse the Government has established one of its most important fish hatcheries. At Eastern Point another lighthouse warns the mariner of the danger at the harbor entrance, while from the Point extending many hundred feet Dog Bar Breakwater makes safe anchorage within the harbor for shipping even in the severest storm.

### **Early Fire Societies Succeeded by Excellent Fire Department.**

Gloucester was cheerfully housed and supplied by its Fire Department, one of the best of the departments in proportion to its size in the State. I can but briefly

speak of some things in its history. The first fire of any record was 1675, the first big fire was 1830 when the western end of Front now Main street, was wiped out on its southerly side with a property loss of \$400,000, in this fire 3,000 barrels of mackerel were burned up, value at the present time over \$70,000. For the relief of those made homeless by that fire nearly \$15,000 was contributed by citizens of Boston and other places in that vicinity. But by far the biggest fire that Gloucester has had was that in February, 1864, when 103 buildings were destroyed with their contents along both sides of Front now Main street, from near the head of



Main Street after Big Fire

Porter street, eastward to the Custom House, the money loss being rising half a million of dollars and hundreds of barrels of mackerel were burned, valued at many thousands of dollars.

Before the fire engine Gloucester had fire societies, men who banded themselves together for mutual protection and as early as 1789 there was the Masonic Fire Society, in 1793 the first fire engine was bought, in 1830 the hydraulic engine and the same year the first reservoir, in 1831 was the first parade of the fire department, in 1833 the first ladder company, in 1850 the first hook and ladder truck, the first steam fire engines in 1864, in 1882 the fire alarm was installed

in 1887 the first chemical and the water service and the water hydrants, in 1911 the auto chemical and in 1915 a long step in advance was taken with the advent of the powerful Ahrens Fox Auto Engine. In 1915 the total number of fire alarms responded to was 201, including 62 still, 95 telephone, 47 bell. The department apparatus consists today of an auto pumping engine, auto chemical, auto chief car, 5 steam engines, 3 trucks, 6 hose wagons, 3 combination chemical and hose, 2 supply wagons, 2 chemicals in reserve, 29 extinguishers, 1 fire boat pump. December 1, 1915, there were 177 men connected with the department, one chief who is also inspector of buildings (permanent) four assistant engineers, 22 permanent men, 150 call men. The cost of the department in 1915 was about \$52,000.

### **Water Supply Ample and Adequate and of Unquestioned Purity.**

A city cannot hope to have it a successful fire department unless it has an ample and adequate water supply. That unquestionably this city has and moreover a supply of pure water whose sources of supply can never be contaminated. Her water debt at the present time is about \$900,000, and that the city has any such debt is due to the shortsightedness of certain of her so-called business men who in the early stages of the discussion of a municipal water plant advised the voters to vote against any such project. Had the city put in its own plant instead of allowing a stranger to do it and then selling it to the city at a big profit, Gloucester would at the present time be receiving thousands of dollars in income instead of being obliged to pay a huge debt and interest account. In 1915 there were 6529 water takers, the water receipts were \$112,933. Five hundred million gallons of water were pumped during the year, with an average of 1,313,344

gallons daily or 16 gallons to each consumer. There are 65 miles of main pipes and the plant at the present time is in excellent condition, with three large water supply basins. The city pays nothing for either hydrant or city service. There are 376 fire hydrants covering the city and the city buildings are all practically supplied with water.

### **What the Future of Gloucester Promises.**

Gloucester of the Past and of the Present, that has been what I have tried to tell you. We citizens are proud of the record. It is a record of achievement against sometimes heavy odds. We like to tell the story of its history. It is full and running over with events all interesting, many of great importance. It cannot be denied that this is historic country. Our men and our women stand for the best things; they have been and are men and women of courage and conviction. Cosmopolitan as the community is by reason of the coming into our midst of the peoples of many nationalities, we challenge anyone to say that we are not law-abiding, lovers of justice, firm believers in the right. Honest hearted and open hearted we have



Inner Harbor (1916)

done our share when the calls for assistance have come on into us. We have never raised a millionaire, but far better than great wealth we have raised men and women who here or elsewhere have done their whole duty as citizens.

Confident of the past, we look confidently into the future. The past is secure, what has been is written never to be changed. Glorious as has been that past, the future opens wide before us still more glorious. The next 25, 50, 100 years of Gloucester will be years filled with progress and prosperity. Of fishing and the fisheries, of granite and the granite industry, of the many other manufacturing plants now located here, we have no fear. Others and still others are to follow. We have had and do have men of big business, but we shall have others and still others to take their places and each generation will set the standard higher still. And last and possibly the greatest of all our assets, we shall grow and develop as a summer home city and from that alone we shall find a type of never-failing wealth better, yes, richer than any of the Klondikes of the West.

"Gloucester is late, yet wonderful fair  
For what a beauty of past & pore,  
Yet still its wealth beyond compare  
Is in the race of people here."



## Points of Interest

Annisquam Willows, planted about seventy years ago by members of the Chard family, early stage coach drivers between Lanesville, Bay View, Annisquam and Gloucester, form an arch over Washington street near Vine street just before reaching the village. Annisquam Bridge, built in 1861, although as early as 1832, the General Court granted certain residents of Annisquam the right to build a bridge and charge tolls. This authority was not exercised for in 1847 a similar act was passed and about that time a bridge must have been built for in the town warrant for 1850 there was an agitation to take over the bridge. Annisquam Lighthouse was erected in 1851 on what was then Wigwam Point, now



Annisquam Point. Annisquam River running from Gloucester Harbor to Ipswich Bay is much used by fishing boats and by pleasure craft. Its shores furnish delightful locations for summer homes. Two islands in the river, Annisquam Island (formerly Biskie Island, then Woodbury's, then Rust's) and Merchant's Island (formerly Millett's, then Pource's) also are finely situated for summer homes.

Blynnan Bridge marks the site where the cut or canal was made in 1643 by Rev. Richard Blynnan, first settled minister after the incorporation of the town, 1642. The present bridge was built 1910.

Bass Rocks, a leading summer resort of the North Shore is noted for its rugged boulders, its surf, its summer homes and hotels, its shore drives. Good Harbor Beach, nearby, a splendid stretch of hard smooth sand, affords the finest surf bathing. Brace's Cove just beyond Bass Rocks and at Eastern Point affords at all times magnificent surf display, especially after a severe storm.

The Cape Ann Scientific and Literary Association occupy a brick building at 65 Middle street, and here can be seen a fine collection of early models of Gloucester fishing vessels, much material relating to Gloucester history and an interesting model of Front street (now Main) as it was before the great fire of 1864.



Beaver Dam on Eastern avenue near the Rockport line, is the site of a saw mill erected soon after 1642.

Coffin's Beach (now called Waugershook) is a magnificent stretch of hard sand over a mile in length and is backed by sand dunes of unusual beauty. Situated in West Gloucester, it is easily reached by way of Concord and Atlantic streets. The Coffin farm at which the beach formed a portion, was the property of Peter Coffin, a settler here as early as 1688, who bought it of William Stevens who bought it of Jonathan Willoughby of London. Willoughby Park, named after this Jonathan Willoughby, is a large tract of several hundred acres right at the entrance to the beach and is being developed for fine summer homes.

Dog Town Common, site of a deserted village, is reached by way of Gloucester avenue at Riverdale and is a most interesting and fascinating place to visit. Immense number of large and small boulders, among them Whale's Jaw attract the attention of the visitor, while in all directions there are superb views.

The Home for Cape Ann Fishermen, 136 Eastern avenue, the gift of John Hays Hammond, furnishes a comfortable shelter for old and infirm fishermen. The Fishermen's Institute on Dunbar street offers fine facilities for rest and recreation to fishermen while in port. Visitors are always welcome to either of these excellent institutions.

Five and Ten Pound Islands in Gloucester Harbor are so named because those sums were paid for them by the original settlers. Five Pound Island in the inner harbor was at one time owned by William Vinton, a settler here in 1642, who also owned Vinton Point for whom it was named. On Ten Pound Island a lighthouse was erected in 1820, rebuilt 1890, and in 1887 one of the important stations of the United States Fish Commission was here established.

Governor's Hill, the crest of Commonwealth avenue owned by the city, affords a fine view of the city in all directions. The hill was formerly called Beacon Point Hill, because in April 1770 the General Court at Boston ordered a beacon to be erected so that warnings should be given of the approach of the enemy's ships. The natives records always referred to it as Governor's Hill.

At Eastern Point is located the Old Fort, erected in 1862 by the Government. It is now the site of The Ramparts, the beautiful summer home of the Raymond family of Cleveland, Ohio. At the extreme end of Eastern Point is the lighthouse, erected 1831, rebuilt 1890. Near the lighthouse, extending nearly half a mile toward the harbor is Dog Bar Breakwater, built of Cape Ann granite and finished in 1904. Also near the lighthouse is Old Mother Ann, a perfect contour of the face of an old woman in the boulders and was for many years named by the boat fishermen "Woman in the Rocks." At Eastern Point is Nile's Pond, Nile's



Beach, fine driving roads, beautiful summer estates, many summer hotels and boarding houses and the entire territory is already one of the best of the North Shore summer places. On Ledge Lane near Mount Pleasant avenue and East Main street is "The Studio on the Moors" built in 1916 from designs by the noted architect Ralph Adams Cram by Mr. and Mrs. William E. Atwood, where during the seasons exhibitions will be given by the artists and sculptors who spend the summer months on the Cape. Near the studio is the beautiful estate of Mr. and Mrs. Atwood.

Mount Anne Park (formerly Thompson Mountain), the highest point of land on Cape Ann, is reached by New Way Lane off Essex avenue at West Gloucester. Another high point of land is The Poles at Riverdale, just this side of The Mills on Washington street. Both these points afford the best views in all directions from Gloucester. Mount Anne Park is a memorial to the Minot family of Boston and is a public reservation.

The ample water supplies of the city are located at West Gloucester and comprise Wallace, Dike and Haskell's Ponds. Of large extent, of a fine quality of water and with the city owning on all sides of each pond, the city is extremely fortunate, and the present supply is capable of larger development. At Haskell's Pond, a fine wood road connects Essex avenue with Manchester village. The water system was first used in 1885. Fernwood Lake at West Gloucester and Cape Pond off Eastern avenue near the Rockport line are the important supplies for the Cape Pond Ice Co. Cape Pond furnishes the water supply for Rockport.

The first poor house was located on Granite street near the corner of Summer street and was built and occupied in 1790. The first watch was established in 1705 on what is now the high land off Fort square. At

this point in 1742 the first fort was built and during the War of the Revolution, 1775, and the War of 1812 the fort was rebuilt and occupied. In the old days the place was called Watch Hill and the street was called Battery street (now Commercial street).



The Grist Mills at Riverdale were first used as a site for a saw mill in 1642 and in 1677 the mill for grinding corn was established and has been in continuous use ever since.

Duncan Point was so named because it was formerly owned by Peter Duncan, one of the earliest settlers, in 1642. On the high land near the Point where the stone house now stands at the close of the Revolution the conclusion of Peace was celebrated and a large oak tree, twenty-three feet in circumference, was brilliantly illuminated. The stone house was built and occupied by Fitz H. Lane, the best known and much beloved native born artist and here he passed away in 1865.

At 79 Middle street was located the famous Broome tavern, a noted resort as early as 1725. At the junction of Main and Rogers streets was the Jonathan Lowe tavern where the first travel by stage to Boston commenced in 1788. The large square in front was called Market square. On the opposite corner of Main and Washington streets the Tappan Hotel was built in 1810 by James Tappan. For over a century this hotel, one of the first brick buildings erected in Gloucester, has served the public as a hotel at different times called the Gloucester House, Mason House and Parison House. This hotel in the middle of the nineteenth century was the centre of the social life of Gloucester. Another old time tavern was located on Western avenue (then Canal street) near the Cut bridge and was called the Pine Tree Tavern and during the Revolution was the gathering place for the negroes of the town. Where the Parsonage residence is on Prospect street was the Garrison House, the home of Peg Wesson, the witch who figured in an interesting episode in the French War, 1745.

Stage Fort Park, right at the entrance to Gloucester on Western avenue, is the most historic spot in Gloucester and on Cape Ann. Here the first settlers came in 1623 and landing on Helt Moon Beach, they set up their fishing stages on Folsom's Field as it was then known, and here was then established the fishing industry ever since carried on in this place. Here was erected the first house, here was the gathering of the first town meeting, the first church, the first school. Here the

Massachusetts Bay Colony was established and here Roger Conant came as Governor. From this spot dates the permanent settlement of Cape Ann. On the big boulder near Half Moon Beach in 1907 the citizens of Gloucester dedicated the bronze tablet to commemorate the important events that here took place. Here as early as 1775 a fort was built, to be rebuilt in 1812 and in the War of the Rebellion 1861-65. In 1898 the Park was purchased by the citizens to be forever used for public purposes. Here the big out of door events take place in the summer months and the Great Pageant of 1909 was given here and in August of each year Gloucester Day is celebrated with much ceremony. On the highlands back of Stage Fort Park and nearer Fresh Water Cove is Ravenswood Park, a beautiful tract of wild land of several hundred acres, given to the people of Gloucester by Samuel E. Sawyer and by his trustees finely developed with roadways and by-paths and easily approachable for pedestrian, carriage or auto by a new roadway built from Western avenue just beyond Fresh Water Cove village. The Park is also reached by the old Salem Turnpike leading from Western avenue at the top of Bray's Hill. Along this roadway is 'The Hermitage' where for thirty years summer and winter has lived Mason A. Walton the Hermit and this place is one of the many most interesting places in the city to visit. At Fresh Water Cove, off Hesperus avenue, just beyond the station of the United States Coast Guard, is the Norman's Woe Rock, made famous by the poem by Longfellow "The Wreck of the Hesperous".



Windmill Hill, the site of the former Surfside Hotel now the site of The Tavern, the new hotel, built 1917, was so named because here in 1814 Ignatius Webber built a large windmill which was subsequently removed to Fort square and has since been taken down. Along Western avenue then Canal street from this spot toward the cut bridge was a large rope walk built by Mr. Webber and Aaron Plumer in 1803, which later became the property of Benjamin K. Hough, Senior, and he offered it to the town about 1855 for \$1000, on the condition that it should be kept for a public park. This the town did not accept but at the present time efforts are being made to secure the entire stretch for a boulevard. Directly in front of this property is Pavilion Beach owned by the city and situated so near to the city proper, it is a favorite place for bathing and recreation. Where the Collins School now stands on Prospect street was another windmill. Prospect street was then called Back street, Middle street was Cornhill and Main street was known as Fore street. On Middle street between the First Parish Church (Unitarian) and the present Sawyer Library building was another long rope walk extending clear to Back street.

Dane Fudging at the foot of Blymoun avenue, a favorite place for bathing, was so called because opposite this spot the currents of Annisquam river meet and no persons poling or fudging a boat or raft against the current, here took the tide fair and therefore were "done fudging."

The present Forbes School building, Washington street, was built in 1844 and was the first Town Hall of Gloucester. It was built out of money received from the State, being a portion of the surplus which the United States divided among the different states, and this in Massachusetts was divided among the towns and cities. When the present City Hall was built the old Town Hall was turned over to the school department and it then became the Forbes School, so named for the Rev. Eli Forbes, minister of the First Parish 1776 to 1804 who was much interested in the schools.

The Addison Gilbert Hospital, founded by Addison Gilbert in 1888, occupies a fine situation at 298 Washington street. The Huntress Home for Aged Women, natives of Gloucester, was founded by Joseph L. Huntress of Boston, a native of Gloucester, in 1884. It is situated at 110 Prospect street.

City Hall, Dale avenue, built in 1870 to replace the new one on the same site, burned May 1869, contains many valuable city and town records and vital statistics, valuable paintings by Lane and other artists and memorials of the early families of Gloucester and many of Gloucester, England.

The Young Men's Christian Association, organized 1857, occupies the valuable property corner of Middle and Hancock streets. Near this site (on Middle street) was the whipping post used for the last time in 1780, and on the site was built the first three story dwelling house in Gloucester about 1800 by John Snyvens Ellery. The house was for many years owned and occupied by Dr. Eleazer Dale and his descendants.

The present Custom House and Post Office was built in 1854 and the site was formerly the residence of Epen Sargent who in 1779 was appointed the first Collector of Customs. The first Postmaster was





Henry Phelps, appointed 1792 and the first Post Office was in his building, corner Main and Centre streets (now site of Tibbets Block). The oldest Post Office building now standing is the small one story building situated near the Defiance Engine House on Prospect street and formerly stood near St Main street and was the office when Gorham Parsons was Postmaster in 1839.

The First Parish (Unitarian) Church, Middle street, was built 1828 and replaced the first church built on the same site in 1738 when the Parish moved from Meeting House Green after having occupied three meeting houses on or near that spot. The present church contains many articles of historic value, notably the shot which was fired into the older church in August 1775 by Captain Linzee of the British Man of War Falcon when he unsuccessfully bombarded the town. Among other articles may be mentioned the rare silver communion service over a century old. In the older church all the important public events were held during the latter part of the eighteenth and the early half of the nineteenth centuries, including the town meetings.



Near Meeting House Green "up in town" were located the first three meeting houses of the First Parish, although an earlier meeting house was probably built nearer the old Burying Ground on Centennial avenue. Here was built the meeting house of the Fourth Parish, 1752 taken down 1840. Here was the old time Training Field although later there was another nearer the centre of the town at the corner of Maplewood avenue and Prospect street. The Ancient Burying Ground on Centennial avenue near Washington street was used as early as 1642 and is the oldest in the city. At West Gloucester is the Tomson Burying Ground, the second oldest, and here lie the remains of Reverend Samuel Tomson, first minister of the Second Parish, who died December 8, 1724.

The Second Parish Church (West Gloucester) was built 1716 on an elevated point of land off Essex Avenue and was taken down in 1846. The Third Parish (Annisquam) Church was built 1728 very near the location of the present church which was built 1830 and is now the Universalist Church. The Fifth Parish (Sandy Bay now Rockport) Church was built 1754 on a site very near where the Baptist Church in that town is situated. It was taken down in 1805 and the present church of that Parish was built in 1804. In the belfry of the Methodist Church at Riverdale (the successor of the Fourth Parish) there is the bell that formerly hung in the belfry of the first church building of the Fifth or Sandy Bay Parish and during the troublous times of the Revolution it often rang to warn the people of the approach of the enemy's troops.

The Independent Christian Society (Universalist) occupies the splendid Colonial Church at the corner of Middle and Church streets built 1805 and the magnificent elms that line the entrance yard were planted nearly a century ago. The church contains many mementoes of John Murray, its first minister and of Thomas Jones, its second minister. It also has a beautiful colonial clock over a century old, a silver communion service at least as old and twenty-four memorial windows to prominent members of the society. An interesting object is the small barrel organ which was used in the first church building of the society (the first Universalist Church in America) which stood at the corner of Main and Water streets where the Bradford Building is now. The bell in the church steeple was cast by the Paul Revere Foundry.

At Magnolia near the village is Rater's Chasm, a deep fissure in the ledge on the sea shore, so named from a man by the name of Ralph who once lived near the spot. Near this chasm is a smaller one called Little Chasm.

Besides Mother Ann already referred to, other curious formations in the rocks and boulders of Gloucester are the profile of Washington on the shore at Bass Rocks, the profile of the Old Roman in the pasture off Eastern Avenue near 136 Eastern Avenue, and the Elephant's Head formed from the immense boulder in one of the fields at Annisquam Point.

Gloucester has two up to date yacht clubs, the Gloucester Yacht Club at Rocky Neck and The Annisquam Yacht Club at Annisquam. There are also several extensive Golf Links notably the one at Bass Rocks of the Bass Rocks Golf Club.



Thacher's Island, a long narrow island off Land's End, Rockport, so named because the first shipwreck in the history of Cape Ann occurred here in 1685. In 1714 Rev. John White, minister of the First Parish,



bought the island for one hundred pounds and in 1727 he sold it to Joseph Allen for one hundred seventy-five pounds. In 1771 the Colonial Government bought it for five hundred pounds and proceeded to erect the twin lighthouses and on December 21, 1771 they were lighted for the first time. Except for a time during the Revolution these lights have burned every night to warn those who travel upon the sea of the dangers of the coast.

Gloucester and Cape Ann have many points where summer homes have been built and at the present time over a thousand families have thus located here beside the many thousands who take advantage of the living afforded by the many summer hotels and boarding houses and the summer season is constantly lengthening, the people coming each year earlier and staying later. To speak of the following places on Cape Ann is to speak of delightful places where either the most sumptuous summer mansion or the simpler summer bungalow and camp have been built to be occupied each year by families who are glad to call Cape Ann their summer home. Magnolia, Fresh Water Cove, West Gloucester, Wingaersheek, Round the Parish, Fernwood, Standwood Point, Winnahdin, Agamenticus Heights, Eastern Point, Bass Rocks, Brier Neck, Long Beach, Land's End, Starknought Heights, Stone Haven, Straitsmouth, Pigeon Cove, Phillips avenue, Ocean View, Lanesville, Bay View, Rockholm, Norwood Heights, Annisquam, Thurston Point, Wheeler's Point, Riverview, Wolf Hill, Annisquam Island, Merchant's Island.

At Essex, seven miles from Gloucester either by trolley or by auto over the finest of state highways, the shipyards where for many years Gloucester vessels have been built are well worth seeing. Here at the present time there is unusual activity and the latest models including the beam trawler and the three master may be seen upon the stocks. Essex built vessels are known for their sea worthiness, their sailing quality and their carrying capacity.

The Gloucester Board of Trade located in the Gloucester Bank Building 187 Main street extend every hospitality to the stranger and gladly furnish information about Gloucester as a place to do business in for a permanent home or for a summer residence. Their rooms have every facility for writing, reading, telephoning and centrally located are easily accessible to everyone.

## Old Gloucester Houses



Riggs House, Vine street from 558 Washington street oldest house on Cape Ann, was built 1660 by Thomas Riggs, first school master, town clerk for fifty years, selectman, representative. Dennison House, Revere street from 628 Washington street, Bay View, was built 1727. Balson House, 245 Washington street, built about 1749 by Colonel William Allen, still retains the slave pens in the attic, used when slavery existed in Gloucester. Ellery House, 244 Washington street, built about 1704 by Rev. John White, minister of the First Parish, who sold it to James Stevens who kept a tavern there until 1740 when he sold it to William Ellery by whose descendants it is now owned and occupied.

Sargent Murray Gilman House, 47 Middle street, built by John Stevens in 1770, who married Judith, the daughter of Winthrop Sargent. Mr. Sargent was one of the founders of Universalism in Gloucester. After the death of John Stevens, his widow married Rev. John Murray, founder of Universalism in America and they lived here several years. Later it became the home of Major Frederick Gilman and here was born Rev. Samuel Gilman, who wrote "Fair Harvard" and was a celebrated Unitarian minister. Here lived in the middle of the nineteenth century Father Hough, prominent as a citizen and a Universalist. It is the finest Colonial house on Cape Ann, its parlor and hall being especially beautiful. It is to be preserved as a public memorial to Winthrop Sargent, John and Judith Sargent Murray and Samuel Gilman.

Freeman House, on Essex avenue, near Pumping Station, built 1700. Ryle's Tavern, 403 Essex avenue, noted tavern of the eighteenth century, built about 1700. Samuel Parsons House, 197 Western avenue, built 1690. Parsons Morse House, 106 Western avenue built about 1713. On Witham street at Joppa, many old houses built previous to 1770, one of these the Parsons House.

Whittensop House, 21 Washington street, built 1710. Rev. John Rogers House, 64 Middle street, built about 1775. Nehemiah Parsons House, 68 Middle street, built previous to 1775. William Parsons House, 58 Middle street, built previous to 1775. Phillimon Haskall tavern, 54 Middle street, built previous to 1750. Col. Joseph Fenner

house, 77 Middle street, built about 1770. Rev. Eli Forbes house, 40 Middle street, built about 1770. William Dolliver house, 90 Middle street, built previous to 1770. Sanders House, 88 Middle street, built



1764, now the Sawyer Free Library, with beautiful colonial interiors. Gillert Home, 3 Western avenue, built by Nathaniel Ellery 1750, afterward owned by Samuel Gilbert and his son Addison Gilbert who in 1888 willed it to Gloucester as a Home for Aged Men and Women. Col. John Steven's house, 3 Angle street, built about 1770. Peter Dolliver House, 214 Main street, built about 1700. William Coas House, East Main street, opposite Ferry Landing, built about 1750.



Brooklank, Freshwater Cove, 256 Western avenue, built by the ancestor of Samuel L. Sawyer in 1714. The home of Mr. Sawyer for many years.

These are but a few of the many old and interesting houses of Gloucester. There are many others. Many an hour can profitably be spent, in visiting them, in reading of their history and of the people who either built or occupied them. Some ten years ago George H. Procter in a series of articles under the pseudonym "Old Tinter" wrote many interesting things about them and about Gloucester of the olden days, these being published in the Gloucester Times. Within the past month Edward H. Lane has written in The Times delightful recollections of Washington street.

Beside the important and valuable histories of Gloucester by Balch and Pringle, the Memorial of the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary, the Story of Dogtown by Mann, In and around Cape Ann by Weller

the Fishermen's Memorial and Record Books by Procter, Universalism in Gloucester by Eddy, many other books, magazine articles, local articles in *The Times* have been written about this old fishing port. Such writers as Kipling, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward, Connolly have written novels that tell the story of its people. Local and other poets have contributed in a delightful way much of value. For years noted artists have come to Gloucester and Cape Ann and noted sculptors as well. Here every summer hundreds of artists make their home and the artists' colonies are among the larger ones in all New England, and here they put onto canvas the unrivalled glory of the sea and the shore, the quaint and crooked streets, the old fashioned houses, the fisher people, the wharves, the beaches, the sand dunes and the wonderful skies and sunsets above the western hills.

Beside the many points of interest to be seen in Gloucester to which reference has been made, the varied business activities are all well worth visiting and they are so many and so diversified that they furnish much material for study and inspection. At these varied establishments, visitors are always welcome and every possible courtesy is extended by those in charge. Not the least interesting are the wharves of Gloucester where one can usually see a Gloucester fisherman either just in from a trip or just getting ready to sail. Not once, but many times will the stranger visit these wharves so redolent of the life of Gloucester.



The publication of this booklet has been made possible by the co-operation of the representative advertisers who have taken space within its covers. They are worthy of the patronage of all those whom this booklet may reach. The publisher of the booklet thus briefly wishes to express his appreciation of the kindness shown by those friends of the work of Gloucester.

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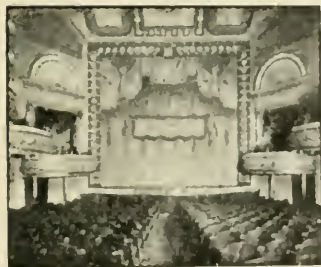
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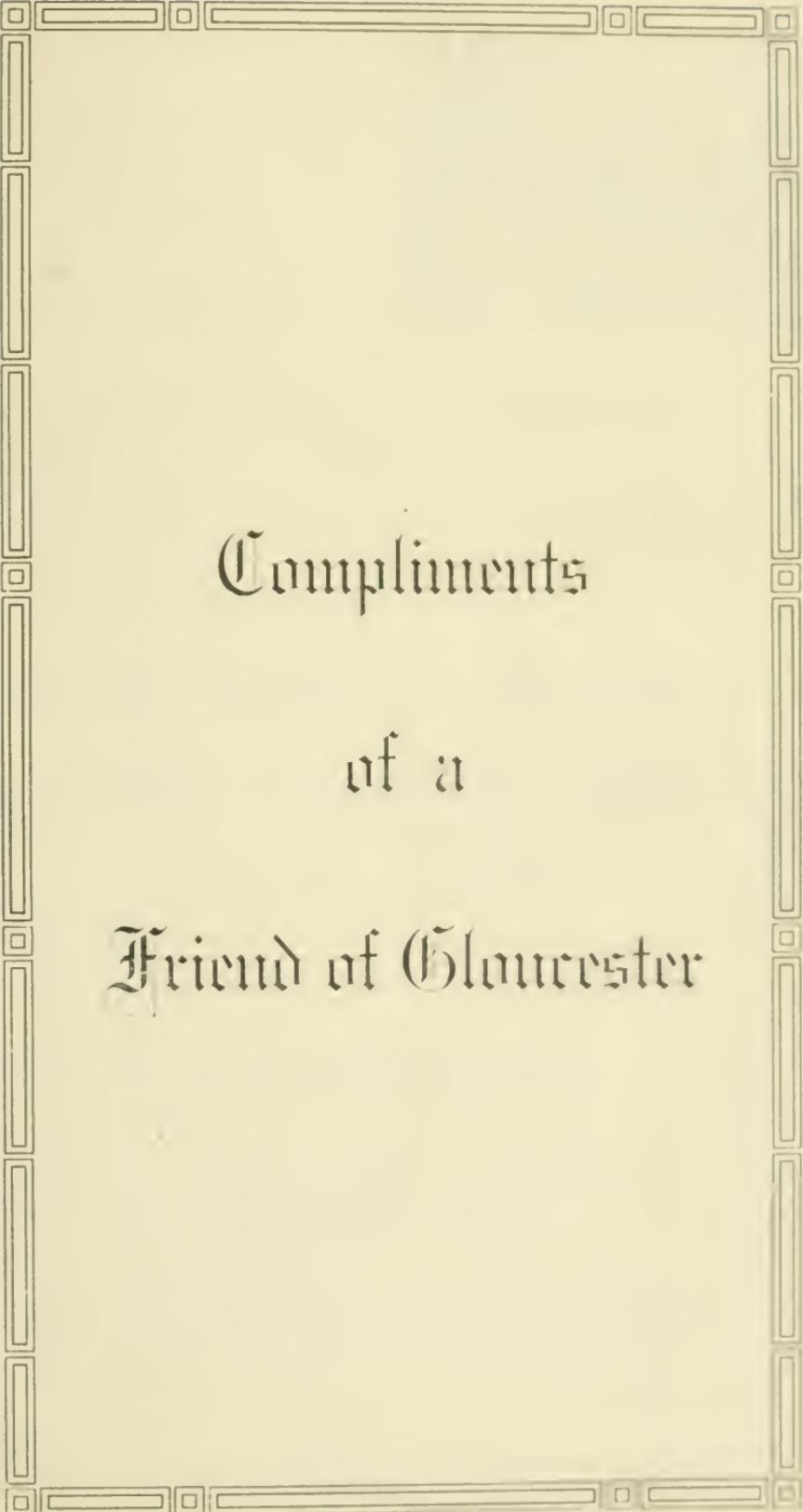


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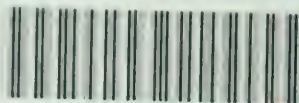








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